

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF WAR
STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT

Washington, D. C.

THIS IS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION
IN CS HISTORICAL
PAPER NO. 229
DO NOT DESTROY

MEMORANDUM

29 September 1945

TO: Branch and Office Chiefs Concerned

SUBJECT: Activation of Strategic Services Unit, War Department

1 Effective 1 October 1945, the Secretary of War has designated General Magruder as his and the War Department's representative to take over direction of those OSS functions transferred to the War Department by President Truman's Executive Order, dated 20 September 1945. These functions together with the personnel and records pertaining to them will be maintained as a separate entity designated as the "Strategic Services Unit, War Department."

2. As Director of the Strategic Services Unit, War Department, General Magruder will be directly responsible to The Assistant Secretary of War, John J. McCloy, or his designee. It is anticipated that most of the key personnel of OSS will remain either in an advisory capacity or in their former positions to assist General Magruder during this transition period. All Strategic Services Officers and Chiefs of Mission and all OSS personnel under their command except personnel of R&A and Presentation Branches in countries other than Austria and Germany will be part of the Strategic Services Unit, War Department, and will be responsible to General Magruder.

3. All R&A and Visual Presentation personnel outside of Austria and Germany are transferred by the Executive Order to the "Interim Research and Intelligence Service", State Department. This Service, established by the President to take over the functions of these two OSS branches, is to be headed by Col. Alfred McCormack, formerly head of Special Branch, G-2. OSS personnel concerned will receive instructions from State Department regarding their future status and activities. Such personnel now en route to this country should continue; their status will be determined upon arrival.

4. It should be noted that the Strategic Services Unit is part of the War Department and not an independent agency reporting to the JCS as was the case of the OSS. Under the authority conferred by Secretary of War Patterson, General Magruder, subject

HS/CSG-1400

(78554) ITEM 6

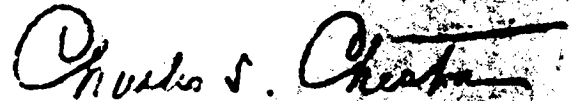
item 6

- 2 -

to the authority of and policies determined by the Assistant Secretary of War and his designees, will continue liquidating "those OSS activities and personnel so transferred to the War Department which are no longer necessary or desirable, and to preserve as a unit such of these functions and facilities as are valuable for permanent peacetime purposes, or which are required by Theater Commanders or occupational authorities to assist in the discharge of their responsibilities".

5. Strategic Services Officers and Chiefs of Mission have been informed of the above and advised that relationships with the Theater Commander and the Army in the field will continue as heretofore. They were instructed that material or records (including financial reports) beyond those which were customarily furnished to Theater Commanders and the Army in the past are to be made available to them only with General Magruder's advance permission. A similar policy is to be followed in continental United States.

6. General Magruder in due course will issue detailed instructions regarding the budget, fiscal and other matters.



Charles S. Cheston
Assistant Director

(78554)